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LINDIS

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

FOR AMBASSADOR OR PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND SENIOR MILITARY  
COMMANDERS

SUBJ: SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE ON U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENTS ABROAD

REF STATE 095498

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AS ADVISED IN REFTTEL, MESSRS. PINCUS AND PAUL, STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SFRC, WILL BE VISITING YOUR POST AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN YOUR COUNTRY ON A FIVE-WEEK TRIP BEGINNING JUNE 25. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE HAS PROJECTED AN IN-DEPTH TWO-YEAR STUDY ON OUR MILITARY COMMITMENTS AND BASES ABROAD AND THEIR EFFECTS ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

STAFF DEL HAS ALREADY MADE A SIMILAR TRIP TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA AND HEARINGS HAVE BEEN HELD IN WASHINGTON ON CURRENT SPANISH AND TURKISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH COMMITTEE AND STAFF SOUGHT TO PROBE IN GREAT DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING SUBSIDIARY MILITARY TALKS, THE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WERE ISSUED, AND ANY SPECIFIC OR IMPLIED COMMITMENTS MADE TO HOST COUNTRY IN CONNECTION WITH THE BASES. THEY HAVE EXAMINED SCENARIOS OF ANY JOINT MANEUVERS FOR IMPLICATIONS OF COMMITMENT TO DEFEND INCUMBENT GOVERNMENTS PARTICULARLY AGAINST INTERNAL THREATS. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO A GREAT DEAL OF HIGHLY SENSITIVE INFO, INCLUDING INTERNAL INSTRUCTIONS AND RESULTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL DOCUMENTS ON BASE AGREEMENTS WORLD-WIDE.

A MAJOR THRUST OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN TO ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT FULL STATE DEPT POLICY CONTROL AND CIVILIAN CONTROL WITHIN DOD HAVE BEEN EXERCISED AT ALL STAGES. THE TENOR OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPEARS TO BE IN FAVOR OF A CONTRACTION OF OUR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT OVERSEAS, AND PARTICULARLY OF OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OUTLAY, AS WELL AS AN AVOIDANCE OF ANY REAL OR IMPLIED SECURITY OR OTHER QUID-PRO-QUO (E.G. MAP) COMMITMENTS NOT COVERED BY A SPECIFIC TREATY.

PINCUS IS AN EXPERIENCED NEWSPAPER MAN, FORMERLY WITH THE WASHINGTON POST, AND PAUL, AN ATTORNEY WITH DOD EXPERIENCE, SO THAT BOTH ARE HIGHLY KNOWLEDGABLE AND WELL PREPARED. THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN A FULL AND FRANK EXPOSITION OF THE SITUATION AND PROBLEMS IN YOUR COUNTRY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO MILITARY-TO-MILITARY AND MILITARY-CIVILIAN RELATIONS.

THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SEE ANY DOCUMENT UP TO AND INCLUDING TOP SECRET WHICH THEY MAY SPECIFICALLY REQUEST PROVIDING, IN YOUR JUDGMENT, THE DOCUMENT IS NOT OF SUCH DELICACY AS TO MAKE THIS STRONGLY INADVISABLE. EXAMPLES OF LATTER CATEGORY WOULD, IN GENERAL, BE DOCUMENTS THAT DEAL WITH NEGOTIATIONS

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CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS OR CONTAIN INTERNAL USG POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OR ADVICE, OR REPORT HIGHLY SENSITIVE EXCHANGES WITH POLITICAL FIGURES OF HOST COUNTRIES.

EVERY ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION OVER DENIAL OF ACCESS TO SUCH MATERIAL BUT, IF NECESSARY, YOU MAY ADVISE THEM THAT YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO FURNISH DOCUMENTS OF THAT SENSITIVITY AT THE POST, BUT WILL REFER THEIR REQUEST TO WASHINGTON FOR THEM TO RAISE HERE WHEN THEY RETURN. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PINCUS AND PAUL HAVE REQUESTED A GREAT MANY DOCUMENTS TO WHICH SPECIFIC REFERENCE WAS MADE IN TESTIMONY OR IN OTHER DOCUMENTS ALREADY IN THEIR POSSESSION AND HAVE BEEN GRANTED ACCESS TO MOST OF THEM, SO THEY WILL BE KNOWLEDGABLE IN PURSUIT OF FURTHER LEADS.

DESIRE TO REITERATE THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF BOTH STATE AND DEFENSE TO COOPERATE TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT IN ASSISTING THIS SUBCOMMITTEE TO PURSUE ITS INVESTIGATION WHICH IS WELL WITHIN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGRESS. IN CARRYING OUT ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS YOU SHOULD EXERCISE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE THEIR INVESTIGATION PRODUCTIVE, GIVEN FULL ACCESS TO FACTUAL INFO AND NOT FUZZ OVER PROBLEMS. WE HAVE ADVISED THEM OF THE BROAD SENSE OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.

COMPLEXITY OF THIS INVESTIGATION MAKES IT DESIRABLE THAT THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPTS BE ADVISED IN DETAIL AS TO THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STAFF, THE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED, THE DOCUMENTS TO WHICH THEY HAD ACCESS AND THOSE WHICH THEY HAD REQUESTED BUT NOT SEEN.

THEY HAVE NOT REQUESTED CONTACTS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND DO NOT WISH TO ADVERTISE THE VISIT.

ADDRESSEES ADVISE SUBORDINATE POSTS AND COMMANDS TO BE VISITED AS APPROPRIATE. ROGERS

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